

Letter from Ida Chamberlin to Annie C. Pratt, October 26, 1900, with transcript

Copy of letter from Mrs. Ida Chamberlin, probably written Oct. 26, 1900, received (forwarded once or twice) Nov. 1, 1900. My dear Mrs. Pratt—

My trip has been one triumphal march, the details of which I will give you when I see you, which I hope will be early next week.

W.D. Howells, Dr. Greer, Henry M. Alden, editor of Harpers, and many others are amazed that Dr. Bell could think such a great work a “come-down” for Helen. John Hitz thinks that if I can once have a long talk with Dr. Bell he will change some of his opinions. I don't much care. But— there is one thing I will say, that I have not done all this work, and I have worked terribly hard, to raise what promises to be a large sum, to exploit Graham Bell's theories. I am audacious enough to think I am nearer right about these little children, not grown-ups, than he is. As for Helen I know I am. I am more interested in her literary abilities and am hopeful for her, but I work from an earnest spiritual standpoint, and he has the deadly artificial standpoint of startling the world. I have been meeting great men every day now for two weeks, men who do as valued thinking on mental development, broad men not specialists, and, with the exception of Dr. Greer, they think a mistake is being made in sending Helen to College. They all feel that a higher & broader development lies in this course. Dr. Greer said, “what Helen wishes to do is the thing, and I will help all in my power, as I have done, to accomplish her desires.” He thought my idea a beautiful one.

In great haste, with lots of love to you, (signed) Ida C— Friday morning.